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Front Page 5th Page Other Page

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We, The People

Key CIA Agents Were Red Spies

By JAP FRANKLIN

Our famous and expensive Central Intelligence Agency has made itself the laughing stock of the world's secret services. Its latest flop is the discovery that two of its key agents in central Europe have been Soviet spies from the start.

One of them got into CIA by the simple ruse of walking away from the Iron Curtain and begging for asylum from the Soviets. He was a former Red army officer and apparently was accepted in good faith.

What's going on here anyway?

I know of two cases where Americans of unquestioned loyalties and special qualifications have been rejected for CIA work for no reason at all. One of them had a particularly good setup to get the low-down on Nehru two years before India tried to confuse our policy in Asia. No dice.

Blackballed By London

The other had had years of successful wartime intelligence service and knew the technique for preventing "penetration" by foreign spies. He had temporarily thwarted the efforts of British intelligence to control our spy organizations and so had been blackballed by London's famous "ladies' auxiliary," the OSS.

In the first instance, the answer had been that we were sure of Nehru and didn't need to worry about India's policy. In the second case, the basic objection was that the proposed mechanism didn't cost enough and couldn't be controlled by the British or penetrated by the Reds.

But let a carefully coached Red jet pilot or a Polish sea captain or a Czech official suddenly announce that he is on our side, all doors are opened to him and he struts right into the heart of the chapel.

The results are right under our eyes: Every single agent parachuted into the Soviet empire caught and killed within minutes of landing; radar secrets stolen systematically from Fort Monmouth, a loyal Russian army officer in charge of our central European intelligence, and so on and on and on.

Setup Entirely Wrong

The truth of the matter is that the CIA setup is entirely wrong and the institution should be abolished. Its personnel have proven incompetent to do the job for which they are paid and should be returned to private life. If this program is too embarrassing a confession of failure, the organization should be kept on as a blind, while a real secret intelligence outfit is organized on the side, entirely apart from the old CIA, and allowed to operate as intelligence should operate, without publicity, without central files, and without civil service personnel selected by competitive examinations from individuals who apply for the job.

Above all, it should be under permanent civilian control and not considered as a part of military intelligence—which is an entirely separate branch of secret service.

Accurate and timely information, properly evaluated and accepted by the government of this country could make the difference of life and death for America if not for the entire planet. We can't afford another Pearl Harbor, not in the day of the hydrogen bomb, and we cannot trust the agents of foreign governments to keep us properly informed. Let's see a little of Ike's famous housecleaning applied to this dismal flop in our national security.